



National Newspaper Association
Washington Office
PO Box 5737
Arlington, VA 22205
703.237-9802
Fax: 703.237-9808
Web Site: www.nna.org

November 29, 2010

The Honorable Susan M. Collins
United States Senate
413 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510-1904

Dear Senator Collins:

The National Newspaper Association, representing more than 2,000 community newspapers across America, appreciates the opportunity to review the proposed Postal Service Improvements Act of 2010. We believe your proposal takes important strides toward preserving viable and affordable universal service for all Americans.

As ratepayers who use the mails to reach readers with critical local news and advertising, we depend upon the Postal Service to support our role in community life, politics and culture. It appears from recent audits by the Office of the Inspector General and the Postal Regulatory Commission that our postage payments have overfunded USPS retirement systems—both the Civil Service Retirement System and the Federal Employees Retirement system—for many years. If the Postal Service is to remain our primary delivery partner, it is essential that postage payments are not diverted to support other federal obligations. Any existing surplus should be immediately identified and applied to other USPS liabilities. Your bill would permit that surplus to be applied to the Postal Service's Retiree Health Benefits Fund. We support that provision and suggest that it would be even stronger if the USPS Board of Governors were required to transfer the funds to the RHB fund, rather than permitted.

We also support other measures in the bill that would assist USPS management in bringing its costs under control. The publishing and printing industries that supply the majority of the Service's business mail have undergone serious restructuring efforts in recent years, including changes in employee benefits and compensations. Though difficult and often painful, they have been essential to our industry's sustainability. As the print world changes, the Postal Service must bring its costs into line with its customers.

We appreciate your leadership and look forward to working with you.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jeff Fishman".

Jeffrey Fishman
Chairman/NNA Government Relations Committee
Tullahoma News, Tullahoma, TN

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Alan L. Baker".

Alan Baker
NNA State Chairman/Maine
Ellsworth American
Ellsworth, Maine